

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
EUCOM
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
CINCEUR

UNCLAS ANKARA 0789

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TU, US
SUBJECT: TERCUMAN REPORT OF INTERVIEW WITH VICE PRESIDENT
MONDALE

1. FEBRUARY 2 TERCUMAN FRONTPAGED AN ALLEGED EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW BETWEEN ITS CORRESPONDENT LUTFU AKDOGAN AND
VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE IN PARIS (DATE NOT SPECIFIED). ACCORDING
TO TERCUMAN, THE INTERVIEW WAS THE ONLY ONE GIVEN BY MONDALE
IN PARIS. AKDOGAN IS A SENIOR TERCUMAN REPORTER STATIONED IN
PARIS, WHO SPECIALIZES ARAB AFFAIRS. HE SPEAKS FRENCH, BUT
IS NOT KNOWN TO SPEAK ENGLISH.

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BEGIN TEXT OF INTERVIEW
AKDOGAN: ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS FROM U.S. AND TURKISH SOURCES, THE
RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE U.S. ARE IN DANGER OF BEING BROKEN
OFF. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT?
MONDALE: ONE CANNOT JUDGE POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF STATEMENTS MADE TO THE PRESS. BEFORE I

LEFT FOR MY TOUR WE HAD A LONG MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN AND SPECIAL ADVISER PROF. BRZEZINSKI. AS VOICED THAT THE MEETING BY ALL THE FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES, PRIMARILY PRESIDENT CARTER, WE WANT A JUST SOLUTION BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE ON BOTH THE AEGEAN AND CYPRUS PROBLEMS. WE DO NOT WANT FRICTION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH THE SAME DEFENSE FUNCTION IN THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE. I REPEAT, IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO LOOK AT STATEMENTS PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPERS AND TRY TO DIRECT THE STATE MECHANISM ACCORDINGLY. TURKEY IS ONE OF OUR OLD FRIENDS AND ALLIES. BUT THE GREEK LOBBY IN THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ASSESS STATEMENTS FROM THIS ANGLE.

AKDOGAN: BUT AMERICA'S STANCE AS A STATE IN RECENT YEARS HAS NOT INSPIRED CONFIDENCE IN TURKEY. THE ARMS EMBARGO AND YOUR PRESSURE OVER THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HAS LEFT US FACED WITH DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION IS SHOWING A REACTION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. IF TOMORROW TURKEY AND THE SOVIET UNION SHOULD SIGN A POLITICAL DOCUMENT, AND IF THE AMERICAN BASES WERE CLOSED, HOW WOULD YOU ASSESS THIS?

MONDALE: TURKEY IS FREE TO SIGN ANY AGREEMENT WITH ANY COUNTRY. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY. AS FOR CLOSING THE AMERICAN BASES, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS AGAINST AL MILITARY AID, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY INTERVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES. THE CLOSURE OF BASES NEVER BOTHERS THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. THE BASES IN TURKEY ARE IMPORTANT FOR THE SECURITY OF EUROPE AND THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST. OTHERWISE, THEY DO NOT DIRECTLY CONCERN THE USA. BUT CERTAINLY THE SECURITY OF EUROPE AND THE STABILITY OF THE MIDDLE EAST ARE IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED STATES. WE WANT TURKEY TO REMAIN IN THE WEST FOR THE SECURITY OF EUROPE. EVERY ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL BE EXTENDED TO TURKEY AND THE EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED TOTALLY AS SOON AS THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE IS SOLVED IN A JUST WAY.

HOWEVER, AS YOU WILL APPRECIATE, THESE ARE THINGS THAT SHOULD HAPPEN SLOWLY.

AKDOGAN: THERE IS A QUESTION OF TURKEY'S WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO, EVEN THOUGH IT MAY BE A REMOTE POSSIBILITY. IN SUCH AN EVENT COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT YOUR PROBABLE STANCE WOULD BE?

MONDALE: FRANCE PULLED OUT OF NATO BEFORE, DEGAULLE EVEN PUT THE NATO HEADQUARTERS OUT OF FRANCE AND MAINTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA. GREECE HAS DONE THE SAME. FOR THIS REASON, TURKEY COULD ALSO LEAVE THE MILITARY WING OF NATO. IT CAN ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH WHICHEVER COUNTRY IT WISHES. NO ONE CAN INTERFERE.

AKDOGAN: IN GENERAL, WHAT WILL BE AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY OUTLOOK?

MONDALE: HEREAFTER, THE USA WILL NO LONGER BE THE POLICEMAN OF

THE WORLD. IT WILL NOT LONGER INTERFERE IN OTHER STATES' AFFAIRS AS IT USED TO. YOU SHOULD ACCEPT THAT THE ECONOMY OF THE WORLD IS IN THE HANDS OF THE UNITED STATES TODAY. A GREAT PART OF THE WORLD'S TRADE IS IN ITS HANDS. WE WILL NOT PROMOTE OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES WHICH WE DO NOT REGARD AS OUR FRIENDS, OR HELP THEM IN THIS FIELD.

THE NEW AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO EVERY MILITARY INTERVENTION, THE UTILIZATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS AND EVEN RESEARCH ON THEM. BUT LET ME REPEAT, WE WILL NOT NEGLECT EUROPE JUST BECAUSE WE ARE FAR AWAY FROM IT. WE WILL ALWAYS BE INTERESTED IN THE DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPE.

2. THE INTERVIEW, PLAYED UNDER THE BANNER HEADLINE, "MONDALE: CARTER HAS VERY GOOD INTENTIONS TOWARD TURKEY," WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL WHICH POINTED OUT THAT MONDALE'S VIEWS ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE HE WILL "REALLY" BE THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE EDITORIAL IN PRO-DEMIREL UNCLASSIFIED

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TERCUMAN STATED THAT MONDALE'S "GOOD-WILLED STATEMENTS ARE VERY PLEASING" BUT DIFFERED WITH HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY, OVER WHICH IT PREDICTED "MONDALE WILL CLASH WITH PENTAGON GENERALS, TO SAY THE LEAST". TERCUMAN ALSO NOTED, "HOW CAN ONE THINK THAT THE U.S. WILL WITHDRAW ITS HAND FROM THE WORLD WITH ITS CIA, ITS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS AND ITS MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS? PERHAPS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE YEARNING FOR SUCH A POLICY, BUT AS A MAJOR POWER THE U.S. CANNOT RESORT TO ISOLATION." MACOMBER

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